Shanghai University honors AU artist
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Wayne Higby, professor of ceramic art in the School of Art and Design at Alfred University, was awarded an honorary professorship earlier this month as part of the official dedication ceremonies for Shanghai University's new Fine Arts building.Higby was also the invited speaker for the "Symposium for Fine Arts Education in the 21st Century," organized by Shanghai University to commemorate the occasion. In attendance were presidents and faculty members from all the major art schools in China, as well as representatives for art schools in England, Australia, Russia and Japan.Shanghai University's College of Fine Arts is establishing a new ceramic art program under the guidance of Guanghui Chen. Chen is a 1998 graduate of Alfred University's Master of Fine Arts program in ceramic art.Chen is the second Chinese artist to receive an American MFA in ceramic art. The first, Jiansheng Li, is also a graduate of AU's MFA program, receiving his degree in 1994. With the support of the Chinese government, Li has established the San Bao International Ceramic Art Institute in Jingdezhen. This past summer, 16 Alfred University students attended workshops at the San Bao Center.The College of Fine Arts at Shanghai University and the Division of Ceramic Art at Alfred University will exchange students as part of an agreement that goes into effect in the summer of 2001. "This exchange, as well as others the Division of Ceramic Art has established in China, marks an important juncture in the history of ceramic art," said Higby. "Artists and scholars have long recognized Chinese ceramics as the root history of all ceramic art, which makes Alfred's role in facilitating the contemporary movement in Chinese ceramics especially significant."Higby, who has been a frequent visitor to the People's Republic of China since the early 1990s and who was instrumental in establishing the exchange agreements with the Chinese institutions, will return to China in January 2001 for a major exhibition.